

## Andrew Jackson to Thomas Claiborne, September 10, 1812, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO THOMAS CLAIBORNE.1

1 Endorsed by Jackson, "Substance for a Copy".

Hermitage, September 10, 1812

*Sir* : I am Just informed that the house of representatives has entered upon that part of the Governors message recommending acts to be passed authorising the raising of volunteers etc etc and that you have a law before you on this subject. My attention to business, that cannot be neglected, prevents my being in Nashville which will be an inducement for you to pardon my sugesting a few hints on this subject, particularly when you recollect the adage that the bee sucks honey from the mire.

Without vanity I can say that no person has laboured with more zeal to promote a proper feeling and spirit of patriotism and volunteering throughout the western part of the state than myself, and it gives me pleasure to see the present ardor that prevades the whole hence results the anxiety that I entertain that caution may be used in the wording of any law that may be passed on this subject, least confusion by an interference with volunteers already enrolled under the act of congress and their service tendered may be introduced. Would it not be improper, and tend to this, if any expressions in said law should be used that may be construed to have any bearing on the volunteers already enrolled, that might create Ideas that any part of them were exonerated from their enlistment, or engagement. Would not such a law be nugatory in itself as the volunteers already enrolled are under the act of congress, solely engaged for the term therein specified, as if they were actually

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enlisted and when ordered, are as much bound to repair to the standard of their country as if the[y] were regular soldiers. If then the above is correct, ought not any law on this subject be carefully worded so that no confusion might be created or pretext afforded for any part of the volunteers already enrolled, to think that the [y] are absolved from there engagements. I am well aware that the assemblys intention are truly patriotic, and that every act of theres will be to promote the interest of their country, and least thro accident that these laudable intentions might be converted into the reverse of what was so well intended has occasioned these hasty remarks. a number other remarks might be submitted, but I know your patriotic intention and that you will guard against expression or omission that might tend to injure the service at this all important crisis.

I am with due regard and respect yrs

P. S as I write in haste permit me barly to repeat that should any act be passed, that will in its operation interfere with or exonerate any of the volunteers from there engagements, the good intention of the legislature will be defeated.